25 March 2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

CASE CLOSURE CONSIDERATION, UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK RELEASE, KURZ TRUCKING, 23139 AVENUE 196, STRATHMORE, TULARE COUNTY, RB CASE 5T54000051

To: Offsite Property Owners and Other Interested Persons,

This letter is to inform interested parties of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Central Valley Water Board) consideration of closing the subject case, and to request comments from interested parties regarding the proposed closure at the above listed property (Site).

The Site is currently a commercial trucking facility, where in April 1986 a 550-gallon gasoline underground storage tank (UST) was removed. Analytical results of a soil sample taken from beneath the UST indicated elevated petroleum constituent concentrations. An area approximately 8 by 13 by 10 feet in depth was excavated in May 1986 and transported offsite. In February 1989, four soil borings were drilled, and a groundwater monitoring well installed near the former UST location. Groundwater was encountered at 18 feet below ground surface (bgs). Analytical results of a water sample from the monitoring well indicated elevated petroleum concentrations. Analytical results of a soil sample from soil borings indicated elevated petroleum constituent concentration at approximately 16 feet bgs.

In a letter dated 23 July 2013, the Tulare County Environmental Health Services Division (Tulare County) referred the Site to the Central Valley Water Board for regulatory oversight. To evaluate the case for closure in accordance with the criteria contained in the *Low-Threat Underground Storage Tank Case Closure Policy* (Policy), additional Site assessments were conducted in 2019 and 2020.

In November 2019, five soil borings B101 through B104 and MW-1D; and soil vapor wells SV-1 and SV-2, were installed at the Site. Four soil borings were advanced to a depth of 31 feet bgs, near the former UST location. Soil boring MW-1D was drilled to a depth of 61 feet bgs to install a groundwater monitoring well. However, the boring was terminated at 61 feet bgs due to auger refusal in hard cohesive soils, and groundwater was not encountered. Analytical results for the soil samples indicated low to trace concentrations of petroleum constituents.

On 22 November 2019, soil vapor samples were collected from SV-1 and SV-2. Laboratory analysis for benzene, ethylbenzene and naphthalene were reported as ND.

In September 2020, soil borings B105 and B106 were drilled to depths of 60 feet bgs. Groundwater was not encountered, and analytical results of soil samples from the borings indicated low level petroleum constituents.

Based on soil sample analytical results, the lateral and vertical extent of petroleum impacted soils have been determined. Low concentrations of impacted soil are present near the former UST location, from depths of approximately 10 through 20 feet bgs. The depth to first encountered groundwater is greater than 60 feet bgs, and residual phase petroleum hydrocarbon constituents in the vadose zone do not appear to extend deeper than 20 feet bgs. The absence of detectable concentrations of petroleum constituents at greater than 20 feet bgs indicate a clean soil buffer zone between soil contamination and groundwater. An estimated 2,960 pounds or 475 gallons of residual phase petroleum hydrocarbons as gasoline remain beneath the Site.

The residual mass appears stable and unlikely to affect the beneficial use of groundwater. Additionally, the City of Strathmore Public Water System supplies potable water obtained from the Friant-Kern Canal to the area. One agricultural water well and a storm water ponding basin were identified within 1,000 feet of the Site. No active municipal water supply or domestic wells were identified within 1,000 feet of the Site.

Based on soil sample analytical results and depth to groundwater data, it appears that groundwater is not likely impacted by this release. The contaminated soil does not contain sufficient mobile constituents to cause groundwater to exceed the groundwater criteria contained in the Policy. The Policy states that sites with soil that does not contain sufficient mobile constituents to cause groundwater to exceed the groundwater criteria in the Policy shall be considered low-threat sites for the groundwater medium. Based on the above-mentioned factors, the most cost effective and prudent technology to remove the secondary source would be remediation by natural attenuation.

Based on the concentrations of petroleum constituents in shallow soil and soil gas, the case meets the Policy criteria for Direct Contact and Outdoor Air Exposure, and Petroleum Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air requirements.

The information presented for this case demonstrates compliance with the criteria contained in the Policy. Based on the excavation of contaminated soil in 1986, the attenuating concentrations of remaining trace petroleum hydrocarbons in soil, and the absence of petroleum hydrocarbons impact to groundwater, residual petroleum hydrocarbons should not present a threat to human health, the environment, or beneficial uses of groundwater. The residual petroleum concentration in soil will be further reduced by natural attenuation, and no further action regarding this release is necessary. All technically and economically feasible cleanup has been completed.

The proposed closure is based on the Central Valley Water Board staff's conclusion that the case satisfies the criteria contained in the Policy.

This Public Notice has been transmitted to interested parties in the area, and is posted on the website (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/public_notices/), under Public Notices, Underground Storage Tanks-Decisions Pending & Case Closures.

Details of the Site assessment and cleanup are also available through the State Water Board GeoTracker website (http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/) by searching for case number **5T54000051.** This information may also be reviewed at the Central Valley Water Board office at 1685 E Street in Fresno, California.

You may participate in the case closure process by reviewing technical reports, asking questions, and providing comments. Comments regarding the proposed closure need to be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board at the above listed address **by 24 May 2021.**

Interested parties with questions or comments regarding the Site or the proposed action should contact Khalid Durrani at the above address, by e-mail at khalid.durrani@waterboards.ca.gov, or by telephone at (559) 445-6191.

On completion of the public comment period and in the absence of substantive comment against closure being granted, Central Valley Water Board Staff will proceed with the closure process for the case.